SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST UPDATED 2014

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants: [help]

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to <u>all parts of your proposal</u>, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals: [help]

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the <u>SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D)</u>. Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. background [help]

- 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [help]
 Improvement Project
- 2. Name of applicant: [help]

WDFW – Sinlahekin Wildlife Area Justin Haug, Wildlife Area Manager 3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]

1680 Sinlahekin Road P.O. Box C Loomis, WA 98827 (509) 223-3358

4. Date checklist prepared: [help]

27 July 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]

WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [help]

This is a 1-2 month project to improve the primitive boat launch at Buzzard Lake.

- October-November 2014 Begin coordination with volunteers and implement project (or)
- April-May 2015 In the event permits and approvals aren't in hand by Fall of 2014.
- 7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]

None.

- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [help]
 None.
- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [help]

Hydraulis Permit Approval (HPA)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [help]

This project will include -

- Placing 2-4" angular rock upon/within a polyethylene (or similar structure) mesh topped with smaller rock in the boat launch area and approaching the site (see attachments B & C).
- Placing 0.5-1.5" gravel from the existing agency road to the launch area.
- Hauling of approx. 20 Cubic Yards of rock to site
- Spreading and placing of rock with tractor and small excavator
- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you

are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [help]

Street address: 1680 Sinlahekin Road Loomis, WA 98827

The Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area is located in North-Central Washington, about 10 miles West of the City of Okanogan, Okanogan County. The worksite is generally the Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area and is comprised of about 840 acres.

All lands pertinent to this project on Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area are located in T34N R25E Section 29.

See Attachment A.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [help]

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a. General	description of the site [help]	
(circle one)	: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountain	ous,
other		

The wildlife area is characterized by moderate to steep slopes rising from a basin at an elevation of about 3,350 feet to over 4,300 feet surrounding Buzzard Lake.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [help]

Approximately 15%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [help]

Soils of the Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area have been mapped. The soil map is available on the NRCS Soil Data Website (see links below). No prime farmland exists. Soils present on the wildlife area are as follows:

- Leavenworth silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (Farmland of statewide importance)
- Merkel ashy sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes

For more information visit these links:

http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

 $\frac{http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/DSD/Download/AOI/3qly3d13i5kar113nu0q2dql/wss~aoi~2014-01-22~11-30-47.zip$

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [help]

There will be no excavation or dredging within the lake. Approx. 20 cy of material (various sizes of rock) will be brought in for the purposes of improving the boat launch and stabilizing the lake shore. The total area effected by this project would be roughly 200 sq. ft. .

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
 [help]

No. This project is expected to reduce erosion potential along the lake shore.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]
 None.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]

The crux of this project is to significantly reduce erosion potential by focusing user groups to a stable entry point into the lake. Disturbed soils will be seeded with native species. By concentrating users of the lake to one access point, this project will minimize the effects of erosion into the lake.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [help]

Short-term emissions from a excavator and medium-sized tractor. Dust will also be present while equipment is in the area and travelling to and from the worksite.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [help]

Run equipment only when necessary. Drive in a manner that will reduce the potential of dust.

- 3. Water
- a. Surface Water: [help]
 - Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type

and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [help]

Buzzard Lake – which feeds the Little Loup Loup Creek. This creek is a perennial stream. Some smaller wetlands also are on the wildlife area NE of Buzzard Lake. Various seasonal streams feed into Buzzard Lake from the west and north.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [help]

Yes, activities will occur up to and within Buzzard Lake. The project will use a mesh (see Illustration 1) within the lake to keep material concentrated within the launch area. 2-4" rock and smaller gravels will be placed within and adjacent to the lake; no vegetation or sediment will be moved from the area. Equipment will remain out of the water and work from the shoreline. The outer launch area, out of the reach of the excavator, will be improved by hand spreading the materials.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [help]

Fill – 10 cubic yards of clean rock from a local, certified facility Dedging – None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [help]

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [help]

No discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [help]

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the

number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [help]

NO WASTE MATERIALS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT.

- c. Water runoff (including stormwater):
 - 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [help]

N/A

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [help]

No waste material is directly associated with this proposal.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Comply with all federal, state and county laws regarding the impacts of runoff waters.

- 4. Plants [help]
- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
shrubs
X grass
X pasture
crop or grain
Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, othe
water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
X other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [help]

 Some minor impacts may occur project activities concerning traveling through grass or meadow areas. Due to the duration of the project, these species will not be impacted in the long-term.
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]
 No T&E species are known to occur at these sites.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [help]

Seeding with native plant species will occur on small areas significantly impacted by equipment.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. Common Mullein, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle (small infestation) & St. John'swort.

5. Animals

a. <u>List</u> any birds and <u>other</u> animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [help]

birds: red-tailed hawk, chickadees, warblers, rudy ducks, etc.

mammals: mule deer, moose, chipmunks, etc.

Other: rainbow trout, numerous butterflies, damselflies, etc.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help] No T&E species are known to occur at these sites, however:

<u>Gray Wolf</u> – This area is not included in 'core zone' habitat for this species, as defined by WGA, recent wolf sightings or evidence of wolf activity has been reported in the area - (http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray wolf/reporting/sightings.html). As wolf populations are recovered, the Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area will likely be suitable dispersal and seasonal foraging habitat for this species.

<u>Grizzly Bear</u> - The Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area is approximately 5 miles outside of the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. The current grizzly bear population in this recovery zone is unknown, but is thought to include fewer than 20 animals (USFWS 2004). The Wildlife Area may provide suitable dispersal habitat for grizzly bears, but the likelihood of encountering them there is probably low.

<u>Wolverine</u> - In North America, wolverines may occur within a variety of habitat types at a range of elevations wherever cold, snowy conditions prevail; in Washington State, wolverines may be limited to high-elevation alpine habitats where snow is maintained into the warm season (75 FR 78030). The Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area ranges from approximately 3,350 to 4,300 feet, and heavy snow is common. Wolverines have been sighted west of the permit area in the Methow Valley at similar and lower elevations (WSDM) Though unexpected, the wolverine may occasionally occur here.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]

The general area is used as a mule deer winter migration route.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]

By concentrating users of the lake to one access point, this project will minimize the effects of disturbance along the lakeshore, increasing recovering of wetland species.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [help]

Does not apply

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [help]

Does not apply

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [help]

Does not apply

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [help]

No.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

 None.
- Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.
 None.
- Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None.**
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: None.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [help]

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [help]

Work crews are expected to travel to and from the proposed site on existing roads over a couple of months during the 2-month project in the morning (between 7:00-9:00 AM) and evening (4:00-6:00 PM) creating very low levels of noise. Ground-based equipment will generate various amounts of noise throughout the work periods in late spring/early summer and mid to late fall.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [help]

Properly maintained equipment with mufflers will reduce noise impacts.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [help]

The site is managed for wildlife, their associated habitats, and public recreation. Adjacent properties are managed as open rangeland and timber production.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [help]

The property has historically been used for forest production with some agriculture. This project will not change or convert use.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

No structures exist on this site.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? <a>[help]<a>Not applicable.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? <a>[help]
 Minimum requirement district
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [help]

Listed as AG Resource in the Okanogan County Land Use Designation Map from the Okanogan County Planning Department. Drafted May 14th 2013 -

http://okanogancounty.org/planning/COMP%20PLAN/MAPS/CP Final%20Draft%2005142013 24x20.jpg

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [help]
Buzzard Lake is not classified as 'shorelines of the state'.
http://www.okanogancounty.org/planning/pdf/CompPlanUpdate.pdf

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [help]

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife considers the entire Wildlife Area as environmentally sensitive. It was acquired in 2008 to preserve mule deer habitat.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [help]

Does not apply

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [help]

Does not apply

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [help]

DOES NOT APPLY

L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [help]

Proposed measures are congruent with the WDFW Wildlife Management plan and are supported by Wildlife Manager and WDFW staff.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

WDFW will work closely with the WA Dept.of Natural Resources and permited cattle producers to ensure that management practices are mutually beneficial for long-term management of the area.

- 9. Housing
- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]

Does not apply

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [help]]

Does not apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [help]
Does not apply

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [help]

Does not apply

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [help]

Some minor alterations near ground level but on a very small scale.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: <a>[help]

None.

- 11. Light and glare
- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [help]

Does not apply

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [help] **Does not apply**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [help] **Does not apply**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help] **Does not apply**

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [help]

Many forms of recreation including, but not limited to: hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and camping.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [help] No. This project will enhance all those users who want to access the lake (fishers, boaters, kayakers, swimmers, etc.)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [help]

A well-constructed, easily accessable entry point into the lake will increase the enjoyment of this site significantly. This project will gather those access the lake from multiple locations and focus them to this stable launch site.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [help]

There are no structures or buildings located on or near the site. There are no recorded cultural resources for the project areas for many miles in any direction as ascertained by checking with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation cultural resources database (WISAARD – Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data).

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [help]

There are no recorded cultural resources for the project areas for many miles in any direction as ascertained by checking with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation cultural resources database (WISAARD – Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). The nearest (recorded) professional studies were conducted by WADNR, which resulted in the identification of a historic logging camp, and NRCS, which resulted in negative findings. The work being performed will be reviewed by a WDFW archaeologist and WDFW will communicate with DAHP and the Colville Confederated Tribe (CCT) on any evidence discovered.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

The project area lies within the traditional territory of the Southern Okanogan or Sinkaietk. The Southern Okanogan peoples were represented by four semi-autonomous groups known as the Tukoratum, Konkonelp, Kartar and Tonasket. Following the termination of the Moses Reservation in their traditional homeland, many Sinkaietk remained on the Colville Reservation and are now politically affiliated with the Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Colville Reservation.

The project will be reviewed by the WDFW archaeologist prior to project inititation. The results of the survey will be provided to DAHP and the CCT.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

The results of WDFW's cultural resources survey for the project will be used to inform final project design. Any necessary mitigation and/or avoidance measures will be designed in consultation with the affected Tribe(s) and DAHP. When project goes to construction, WDFW will operate under an Inadvertent Discovery Plan; if cultural resources are identified within or near the project, a Cultural Resources Management Plan would also be implemented.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [help]
 The road system on the Buzzard Lake Wildlife Area is primitive and limited. Roads consist of gravel or dirt. Buzzard Lake Rd (from the South), Windy Hill Rd (from the east) and Arlington Ridge Rd (from the North) are county roads that access Wildlife Area from different directions. See Attachment A.
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [help]
 No. Rural.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [help]

Does not apply

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [help]

No.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [help]

Vehicle trips will remain unchanged with the completed project as all roads being addressed were private, primitive roads, prior to WDFW acquisition.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
 No.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [help]

Crews will carpool and limit trips to the work site when feasible.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [help]

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. <a>[help]<a>Not Applicable.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]
 electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
 other Does not apply.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [help]

Does not apply.

C. Signature [HELP]

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:

Name of signee Justin Haug

John Harg

Position and Agency/Organization - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date Submitted: 27 July 2014